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us that it is opposed to his preferences and convictions, as it is to all the rules of nomenclature in existence.

A characteristic which it would be well for American naturalists to imitate, is the classical form and derivation of most of Professor Jordan's names. They display a refreshing contrast to the poverty of invention and barbarous constitution of the handiwork of too many of our countrymen of earlier years. Moreover we do not find the extravagant use of personal names, which has so prevailed of recent years in England and France. The dedication of a species to men of desert, still remains a compliment in this country, whatever it may have become elsewhere.

We append the following special notes apropos of one which appeared in the *NATURALIST* for 1885, page 814. In this note we did unintentional injustice to Mr. Meek in criticising determinations which we are informed, were mostly made by Professor Jordan. With regard to the *Pantosteus platyrhynchus*, whose characters were said to be due to "shriveling" of the specimen, our objections were well taken; as Professor Jordan informs us that this word is due to a slip of memory, and should be replaced by "soft and limp," the words used in his private notes. Further, Professor Jordan states that he cannot find barbels in either *Meda fulgida* Gir. or *M. argentissima* Cope, as I have described them in the latter, and as Girard failed to observe in the former. The former is very abundant in the San Francisco river, one of the heads of the Gila in New Mexico, where it is the small minnow of the stream. Like Jordan, I find no barbel in any specimen. I have reason to suspect the correctness of the locality given me as that of the *M. argentissima*, i. e., the head waters of the Rio Grande. I suspect it comes from the waters of the Great Colorado. The locality given me for the *Pantosteus guzmaniensis* (*virescens*), "Arkansas river," I have long suspected to be erroneous. I have now reason to believe that it comes from the head waters of the San Juan river, a branch of the Colorado.

Professor Jordan adopts very properly Gill's new order of Lyomeri, for the remarkable Eurypharyngidæ.—*E. D. C.*

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

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Smith, E. A.—A general description of the climate and geological, etc., features of the cotton-producing States. Ext. 4th Rep. Entomol. Comm., 1884.

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GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

ASIA AND OCEANICA.—*The Badghis.*—The September issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society contains a map of the territory about the Heri-rud and Murghab rivers, including the Badghis, which is the district the possession of which is now in dispute between Russia on the one hand, and Afghanistan and England on the other. The country was once well-peopled, but the raids of the Turkoman have made it a desert. Names on the map mark sites, not towns; ruins of forts, caravan-saries, houses, or tanks, with only tombstones left to give the history. Most of the streams have two names, one Arab or Persian, the other Turkoman. Along the northern base of the Koh-i-Baba or Paropamisus are a succession of fertile valleys, formerly used for irrigation. Channels and subterranean canals or karez remain to tell of past cultivation. The streams become salt

¹ This department is edited by W. N. LOCKINGTON, Philadelphia.